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201 East Broad

CHAMP CLARK---HIS EARLY LIFE IN KENTUCKY; HOW HE HAS FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE TOP

Son of Poor Parents He Struggled Valiantly for His Education.

A "BORN POLITICIAN"

He Early Showed Traits Which Have Placed Him in Today's Proud Position.

Lawrenceburg, Ky., February 4.—At the Democratic caucus held in Washington yesterday, Champ Clark, who predicted when a young man that some day he would be President of the United States, was chosen as the next Speaker of the House of Representatives, placing him within a step of the goal which he had set for himself.

While Champ Clark has risen into prominence, his road has not been strewn with roses, and it has been through the hardest kind of digging that he has reached the speakership.

Born in Anderson county among the cliffs along the Kentucky River, whose scenery is often compared to that of the beautiful Hudson, Clark was reared in the confines of a log cabin. The home of Clark was similar to that of other pioneer homes, consisting of three rooms, the sitting-room, the bedroom and the kitchen and dining-room combined.

At the time of Clark's birth there were no railroads in this section of the country, and the farmers rode on horseback to the nearest "grocery store" and post-office for their supplies and mail.

Reared among the cliffs, Champ Clark in his earliest childhood was a student of nature. He loved the little spring beauties which were found in the woods, nesting in the grass and weeds, the old-fashioned thousand-leaf rose which blossomed in midsummer and the golden-rod which betokened the coming of winter. He knew the voices of the Bob White, the thrush, the mocking bird and a host of other birds of beautiful plumage which made their homes in the hills.

James Beauchamp Clark, son of James Hampton and Aletha Jane Beauchamp, Clark, was born March 7, 1850, on a little farm in Anderson county, four miles south of this place.

His father, John Hampton Clark, was a native of New Jersey, and was born where Atlantic City now stands. He was a wanderer, and after coming from Philadelphia to New Orleans and up the Mississippi and the Ohio to Louisville, he finally drifted to Lawrenceburg and settled there. Shortly after arriving in Lawrenceburg he met Aletha Beauchamp, a frail, beautiful girl, and after an ardent wooing they were married. He was an educated man, a mechanical genius and an ardent exponent of Democratic doctrine.

John Clark, after marrying, took up tinkering with old clocks and doing dental work. He rode over Anderson and Washington counties mending old clocks and practicing dentistry and expounding Democratic principles.

Mrs. Clark was also well educated for those days, having received six years' "schooling" in a convent. There were three children—Margaret Louise, the eldest, who died in infancy; James Beauchamp, known to the political world as "Champ" and Elizabeth, now Mrs. Elizabeth Clark Haley.

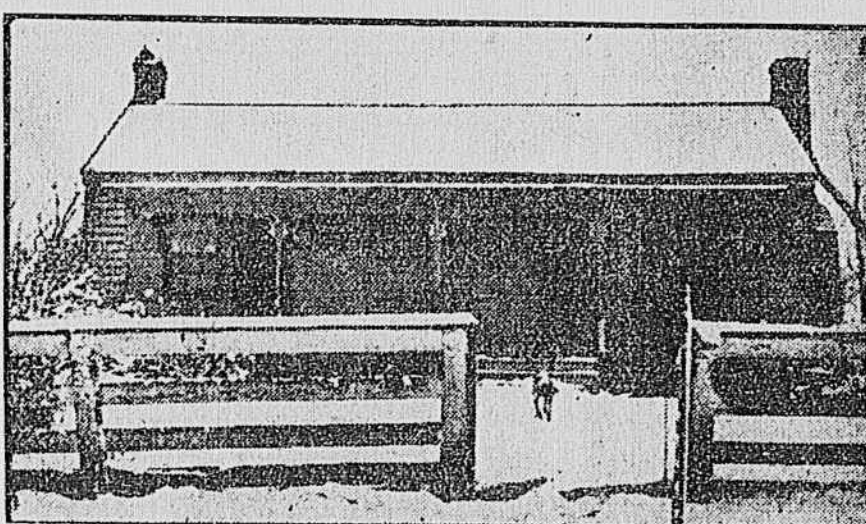


WHERE CLARK LIVED AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS MOTHER.

THE OLD CLARK SPRINGHOUSE.



CHAMP CLARK.



BIRTHPLACE OF CHAMP CLARK.



ONE OF THE FIRST COVERED BRIDGES IN KENTUCKY, NEAR THE CLARK HOME.

After seven years of happiness Mrs. Clark died and the body was laid to rest in the old cemetery here. She was the first person to be buried in the little burying ground which had been set aside by the pioneers of Anderson county.

Mr. Clark was in bad health at the time of the death of his wife, and was to bring up the two little children was a serious problem. He found an aged, childless couple in an adjoining county, who, under his supervision, took charge of Champ and his little sister.

Mr. Clark had all of the Eastern man's love of learning and was determined that his children should have the best education that could be obtained for them.

At that time it was hard to maintain

that his children might be taught. When Champ was old enough to go to school his father "signed three scholars" in order to make out enough to secure a teacher.

From the beginning Champ was an industrious pupil. He learned rapidly and was always on the lookout that his little sister should have the best of everything. He was recognized as a genius in mathematics, and on one occasion astounded his teachers and fellow pupils by adding three columns simultaneously.

After Champ had mastered reading to a certain extent he struck a bargain with one of his old neighbors who could not read. The contract was that the old man should take the Louisville Journal and that Champ should read to him all the news of the day. While reading the markets, the price of tobacco, hemp and cattle palled upon him, but he stuck to his contract.

His father taught Champ in gymnastics and in his reading and writing. He also purchased a number of books for the little fellow. At the age of eleven Champ had read "Washington and His Generals," "Napoleon and His Marshals," a child's history of Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, and had memorized the "Declaration of Independence."

In 1861 Champ's father moved to Mackville, where there was a large school. Champ and his sister were in classes with children much older than themselves. They were in the Mackville school for two years.

That Champ Clark was a born politician and a speaker was shown at this old country schoolhouse. There was a picnic one day, and no old people present. It was after an urgent call had been made by the government for volunteers to the Union army, and as the children played about the grounds beneath the shadows of the improvised platform that some one suggested that a real speech be made. The older boys then went into executive session and unanimously selected Champ Clark as speaker of the day. He refused, but the honor was pressed upon him willy nilly.

Standing upon the platform from which speakers had called upon the young men of the country to serve in the Civil War against the South, in a burst of eloquence he quoted the lines of Daniel Webster, beginning, "When my eyes shall be turned for the last time to behold the sun in heaven, may I not see him shining on the broken and discolored fragments of a once glorious Union?"

By this time the country was convulsed by the throes of the Civil War. The school was broken up and Champ returned to the farm. Through manual labor he developed the body which gave him his powerful physique. After working on the farm he worked for a while as a clerk in a country store in order to obtain money to pay for a college education.

When only fifteen he began teaching. When he was offered his first school he was told that three Yankee teachers had tried to teach there, but in each instance had been run out of the county by the older pupils. There were two factions in the school—the Deatons and the Devines. Undaunted, Champ took the job.

On the opening day, as a matter of precaution, he took a brace of huge navy revolvers with him to the schoolhouse. With apparent negligence Champ hung them on a convenient peg by his desk and called the roll.

Trouble among the students began, and as a result Champ thrashed about a dozen and a half of the strapping boys. The next day while he was standing in the doorway one of the Devines rode up in front of the door, about 100 yards away, and fired

with a rifle at the young teacher. The ball barely missed Clark and bored its way into the woodwork an inch or so above his head. Champ, not knowing so close a shot, grabbed his pistols and started in pursuit of the Devine. He caught a horse and rode posthaste after the fleeing Devine into the next county before relinquishing the chase.

Champ, despite the fact that he was under considerable pressure while teaching the two factions, never showed the "white feather," and when he left school he had won the respect and admiration of all the pupils.

At eighteen, with what money he had saved and what assistance his father could lend him, Champ Clark entered Kentucky University at Lexington.

While there he was a hard student, and the old professors who are teaching at the university say that Champ Clark was one of the most brilliant students who ever entered the time-honored halls of old Morrison Chapel.

While in the university he had some trouble with one of the students, and as a result went to Bethany College, W. Va.

In 1870 he returned to his home county and began teaching again. While teaching at Camden he put modern ideas into his work. He taught the young students Latin, Greek and German as well as the common school curriculum.

At this time the great idea which had long lain dormant awoke. At the close of school one day, when he was telling the pupils that they "should improve each shining hour," he exclaimed, "Why, I even expect to be President of the United States some day."

The day's lessons were usually concluded with a song. Usually Champ would strike the "sound" with the tuning fork and lead in the singing. Upon one occasion he called one of the students, Ben Cox, to lead the song. As Champ raised the tuning fork an old brindle cow poked her head in the door and lowed.

"There," exclaimed Champ, "you got the sound; start the singing."

One hot spring day an old man driving a herd of sheep came by the schoolhouse. When he reached a covered bridge a short distance away the sheep broke by the drover. However, the old man was patient, but each time the sheep got by him this afforded great amusement to the students. Aroused from his work by the continual titter which ran around the room, Champ inquired what was the trouble. He was laughingly told by one of the boys that the old man was having trouble with his sheep.

"It's awfully funny," queried the schoolmaster.

"Yes, sir," replied one of the students.

"Well," said Champ, "if it is as funny as all that you have the privilege of going out and help the old man with the sheep."

School was adjourned, and all of the boys, headed by Champ, went forth and helped the drover with his sheep, not only through the bridge, but two miles up a long hill. The road was rough and the sun very hot.

When the students finally returned to the schoolroom they realized that the lesson did not have to be repeated.

In 1872 Champ bade farewell to the role of school teacher and entered old Bethany College, at Bethany, W. Va., where on one year later he graduated with the highest honors in the college.

The following year he was chosen president of Marshall College, and at that time was the youngest college president in the United States.

After studying law for a year at the Cincinnati Law School he was admitted to the bar in 1875.

He went to Kansas City, Mo., to

practice law, but finding out that he could not get a single case in that city he determined to move. When he would not leave until he had accumulated some money. So, in order to ease his conscience he went out on a farm, where he dug postholes all one day. He received one silver dollar for the work. His conscience was saved and he then went to Bowling Green, Mo.

Honors soon came to him, and step by step he worked his way to the top of the ladder.

First he was City Attorney of Louisville and Bowling Green; deputy prosecuting attorney and prosecuting attorney; presidential elector, delegate to the Trans-Mississippi Congress at Denver, and the permanent chairman of the National Democratic Convention at St. Louis.

He married Miss Genevieve Bennett, and had four children born to him—Little Champ, Ann Hamilton, Bennett and Genevieve. The two latter are living. He was elected to the Fifty-third, Fifty-fifth, Fifty-sixth, Fifty-seventh, Fifty-eighth, Fifty-ninth and Sixtieth Congresses, and was re-elected to the Sixty-first Congress.

With a record behind him of which few Americans can boast, Champ Clark is still young enough to realize his hopes to occupy the presidential chair.

Appomattox Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Appomattox, Va., February 4.—Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gregory left Monday for a visit in Florida.

John D. Abbott, of Franklin, was a visitor to the village this week. Miss Anna Jones left last week for New York, where she resumes her musical studies.

James P. Harvey, of Cumberland, is visiting his relatives and friends in Appomattox this week.

Miss Ida Musgrave, of Campbell, and Miss Mary West, of Lynchburg, spent last week with the Misses Reynolds. Miss Mary Irby entertained the Wednesday Club. Delightful refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hubbard announce the marriage of their daughter, Janie, to Ira Southall, on Thursday, at the home of J. D. Childress. B. G. Anderson is visiting in Rustburg this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Atwood entertained very pleasantly the game club last Friday evening.

Miss Willie Stanley entertained the young folks at her home this week.

Gladstone Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Gladstone, Va., February 4.—Miss Mary Capell, who has been attending school in Washington, has returned to her home here.

Mrs. J. H. Payne, of Blue Ridge Springs, and C. M. Payne, of Farmville, are visiting Mrs. S. C. Payne. V. S. Reed visited Richmond this week.

E. D. Major has returned from a short stay in Lynchburg. Miss Willie Wingfield, who has been the guest of Mrs. Kate Jones for several weeks, has returned to her home in Richmond.

W. H. Harris has returned from a trip to Richmond. L. A. Capell left this week for Peru, Ind.

Miss Ida Jones has returned from a short visit to Lynchburg. C. C. Blassie, of Lexington, was here this week. Several new residences are being constructed here on Main Street.

Beaver Dam Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Beaver Dam, Va., February 4.—Miss Cary Lacy, of Petersburg, is the guest of Miss M. L. Lacy.

Henry Pace, of Richmond, recently visited his aunt, Mrs. T. O. Moss, of this place.

Mrs. Nathan Bell, of Farmville, is visiting at the home of Mrs. W. D. Terrell. Cecil Harris, of Richmond, recently visited Mrs. J. W. O'Brien, of this place.

Mrs. Jennie Baker, of Taylorsville, is visiting her aunt, Mrs. A. C. Ellett. Carlisle McHenry, of Ashland, has recently entered the High School here. Mrs. Flossie Sutton is expected home shortly from North Carolina.

Middleburg Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Middleburg, Va., February 4.—Mrs. D. C. Sands, Jr., who has been visiting Mrs. J. Southgate Leamon, of Landvale Street, Baltimore, Md., has returned to her home, "Benton," near Middleburg.

Rev. W. E. Gibson and Mrs. Gibson are at home after spending a week with relatives in Berkeley. Mr. W. Wallace Parkins has as her guests, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Bolton, of Richmond.

Brian Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Brian, Va., February 4.—Mrs. J. W. Holladay and Miss Virgie Harris are visiting their sister, Mrs. Hugh Lewis, in Richmond.

John Atkins has returned home from a trip to Washington, D. C.

Matthew Layman, of Charlottesville, was at Brian this week.

Farmville Social News

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] Farmville, Va., February 4.—On Monday afternoon Professor and Mrs. Martin informally entertained a few friends and members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The function was given in honor of Mrs. Martin's guest, Mrs. C. B. Tate, of Drapers.

Mrs. E. Scott Martin is spending some time in New York City with friends.

Mr. H. W. Flournoy, who has been visiting her brother, Judge Henry Wood, of Charlottesville, and her sister, Miss N. E. Flournoy, of Amelia, has returned to Farmville.

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